# News Release

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

**437th AIRLIFT WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**
102 East Hill Blvd., Rm. 223, Charleston AFB, S.C. 29404-5154
Phone: (843) 963-5608, 5588 or 5589 Fax (843) 963-5604

**PAO email:** edmund.memi@charleston.af.mil
After duty hours, call the base operator or command post (963-2531) & ask for a PA rep

**Release No. 05-11**

**May 16, 2002**

## CAFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal team hosts bomb removal training

**CHARLESTON AIR FORCE BASE, S.C**. – Team Charleston hosted the first Air Mobility Command Threat Analysis and Diagnosis training class here May 6-10.

AMC charged ahead of the other commands for the opportunity to be able to offer the course to its technicians and teach them about weapons of mass destruction.

"We had three exercises the fourth day, and in the first one we learned how to disarm a briefcase device," said Staff Sgt. Tony Newbern, CAFB Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician. "The second two involved two different large chemical dispersal devices to teach about weapons of mass destruction. The last day we worked on large vehicle bombs to be prepared to disarm them. We did an explosive procedure, using a detonating cord, to remotely open a vehicle.

"Due to media interest for the event, we also blasted a one-half brick of TNT to make an explosion," continued Newbern.

SPARTA, Inc., a systems engineering and advanced technology company, presented the course to 24 members across the command to teach them more about weapons of mass destruction.

"It gives technicians a better understanding of the threat, if it's 'real' as opposed to a hoax, by enhancing their ability to use X-ray techniques," said Master Sgt. Eddy Dominguez, 437th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD superintendent. "The technicians look at a lot of advanced (bomb mechanisms.) They use X-ray to determine whether or not it's a hoax."

According to the SPARTA, Inc., website, they are dedicated to serving the nation's needs within their core business areas of strategic defense and offense systems, tactical weapons systems, space systems, and information systems. They brought their knowledge of explosives to CAFB.

"The purpose of the class was two-fold," said Matt Hill, SPARTA technician. "It was to give the members a better understanding of improvised explosive devices (such as homemade bombs) disruption and have many discussions to understand what equipment is available."

According to Newbern, those taking the course learned mainly about smaller bombs, such as pipe bombs, in their technical school. Additional training is needed to deal with the real-world threat of larger, more powerful bombs.

"This training takes (us) from the smaller bombs we learned about to the larger bombs we mainly see today," said Newbern. "It gives us the tools and ability to attack a vehicle bomb or a weapon of mass destruction."

The course included three days of instructional work and two days in the field putting to practice the information they learned.

"Anytime you have the hands-on training backed up by classroom learning, you'll get more out of it," said Senior Airman Jeff Barnett, 437 CES EOD technician. "Having people from different shops helped me out a lot because I was able to get a different perspective on how to solve a problem 10 different ways."

--more--

"The training reinforced things we learned in technical school and things we need throughout our career," continued Barnett. "The perspective in general coming from EOD technical school is that the bombs are simple. The bombs, however, are no longer small or simple. They are much more sophisticated. These things will do more damage to mass groups of people than before."

Teamwork came into play during the course when airmen were put together with troops from throughout the command.

"We learned different ways of thinking and how to solve problems," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Stark, an EOD technician from MacDill AFB, Fla. "When you are teamed with people you don't normally work with, you learn different things."

Electronics has became a large part of the explosive world these days, and the course also focused on that aspect, said Senior Airman David Csizmar, an EOD technician from Dover AFB, Del.

"In the three days of classroom training, I learned a lot about the electronics involved with making bombs today," said Csizmar. "Viewing electronics on the X-ray made everything look different, but luckily if I couldn't see it, someone from my group could."

Many participants agreed the most important lesson of the course came when they applied "out-of-the-box" thinking to each scenario and realized there was more than one way to solve a problem, and most of those accomplished the task at hand.

"There are a lot of ways to attack any problem, and there's never a set way to do it," said Csizmar. "A lot of times when the guy in charge would decide how to do a problem, they would have someone else share their idea about it so everyone would learn how to do the same problem different ways."

**(These stories are public domain. You may use any part of the story for your publication. For more information, contact 2nd Lt. Jennifer Andrews at 963-5537.)**

(30)